

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN BOB DAVIES**, on January 25, 2001 at
8:15 A.M., in Room 317-B Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Bob Davies, Chairman (R)
Sen. Jack Wells, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. John Brueggeman (R)
Rep. Monica Lindeen (D)
Sen. Bea McCarthy (D)
Sen. Corey Stapleton (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Greg DeWitt, Legislative Branch
Cyndie Lockett, Committee Secretary
Amy Sassano, OBPP

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: Department of Transportation,
1/25/2001
Executive Action:

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 30}

HEARING ON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Chairman Davies called the meeting to order.

Jim Currie, Deputy Director of Department of Transportation, talked about General Operations and the order of presentations.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIVISION

Patricia Saindon, Division Administrator for Rail, Transit, & Planning of the Department of Transportation, discussed the Transportation Planning Division. The Transportation Planning Division is funded with a combination of state and federal special revenue funds.

Mrs. Saindon started going over the decision packages on page A-109. When she started discussing DP 3 on Overtime/Differential the subcommittee referred to **EXHIBIT(jgh20a01)**. She talked about the funds related to congestion management and air quality. The cities that get this funding are Billings, Great Falls, and Missoula. **Mrs. Saindon** explained that the air quality people list Missoula, but not Billings or Great Falls so the base of the funding must go to Missoula.

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Mrs. Saindon explained DP 5, DP 6, DP 7, DP 8, and DP 9. She then went into new proposals DP 1 through 6. **Mrs. Saindon** explained that the department has been waiting on federal regulation from the Federal Highway Administration. She felt there was a good chance that there will be a ruling on new requirements for environmental justice. She also said there would be an expensive data collection on this issue. She said they have to take a look at low income people.

Sen. Wells asked what she meant by low income people. She responded by saying environmental justice wants to make sure they do not displace low income people. She explained by stating that when the department builds interchanges or elevates highways they must do extensive data research on low income people and how the project adversely effects where they live.

Dave Galt, Director of the Department of Transportation commented on DP 3. He said they need weight data on trucks to design pavement and enforcement truck overweight laws. This decision package would be important to get accurate data.

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Mrs. Saindon continued with the new proposals and discussed DP 4 and DP 5. She handed out **EXHIBIT(jgh20a02)**. She wanted the language changed to say build and improve instead of just build.

Chairman Davies asked about the funds, because they are both funded by federal and state. How does this affect the mix, for example on the first two items there is a four to one ratio federal to state? What are our parameters? **Mr. Currie** said the previous program just heard has the federal funds that are in that division. The federal funds are earmarked within TEA 21 for those purposes only. If the subcommittee was to reduce state special to a level inadequate to provide the match, then the federal funds would be sent back.

Mr. Currie said the final program that they will be talked about is the General Operations Program. **Mr. Currie** gave a summarization of what this program does. He then discussed DP 1.

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Mr. Currie continued on with his discussion of DP 1.

Mike Randall, Chief of the Information Services Bureau, discussed DP 2, DP 3, and DP 4.

Russell McDonald, Administrator of Human Resources, addressed DP 5.

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Mr. McDonald's continued to explain DP 5 dealing with federal training and the HazMat Communication Program.

Sen. Wells asked about the AASHTO report that was stated in the LFD Issue. **Mr. DeWitt** stated he just received it and he would make copies for the subcommittee. **EXHIBIT(jgh20a03)**

Mr. Randall discussed DP 6. DP 7 was addressed by **Darrell Zook, Chief of the Accounting Services Bureau**. **Mr. Zook** gave the subcommittee a handout **EXHIBIT(jgh20a04)**.

Sen. Stapleton asked why the Department did not use the system the Department of Revenue uses for a tax revenue system. **Mr. Galt** said there was a lot of discussion about it, but DOT went

with the permitting system. He said the Department of Revenue system did not use credit cards.

Mr. Galt told the subcommittee to cross off DP 8 it was no longer being asked for. **Mr. McDonald** then discussed DP 9.

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Mr. Currie explained DP 10. **Bob Turner, Chief of the Fuel Tax Management & Analysis Bureau** covered DP 12.

Mr. Currie introduced the new proposals and DP 1 was discussed by **Mr. Randall**. **Mr. Turner** explained DP 2. **Sen. Stapleton** asked if they could do this job with 1 FTE. **Sen. Stapleton** asked for just the cost of personnel. **Mr. Turner** answered \$44,482 first year and then in the second year it's \$44,654. **Sen. Stapleton** asked if that included benefits and **Mr. Turner** said no. Then **Mr. Turner** gave the figures again with benefits for first year it was \$57,037 and for the second year it was \$57,233.

Mr. Galt discussed the next proposals and wanted the subcommittee to circle DP 3 and DP 10. He defined both of these proposals and then asked the subcommittee to move the whole thing to contracted services to the Department of Justice. He refers to the handout he gave to the subcommittee on Monday Jan. 22, 2001, and explains the subcommittee needs to cross out DP 3. After DP 3 he directed them to go to DP 10 on page A-76 and change the state special amount from \$62,500 to \$75,000 for fiscal year 2002. In fiscal year 2003 change the state special from \$62,500 to \$150,000.

Mr. Galt then dropped DP 5 and DP 6. **Mr. Zook** then discussed DP 7 and had a handout, **EXHIBIT(jgh20a05)**, for the subcommittee on this DP.

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Mr. Zook finished up his discussion on DP 7. **Sen. Stapleton** asked **Amy Sassano, Office of Budget and Program Planning**, if the agencies were working together to comprehend GASB 34. **Mrs. Sassano** said the state is working together, but the agency that is impacted the most would be Department of Transportation.

Mr. DeWitt asked if his argument of a one-time-only is valid anymore. Then **Mr. DeWitt** asked if there were one-time-only expenditures in the 2003 biennium. **Mr. Zook** replied no, they would like to have the consultant for two years of the biennium, but to keep the accountant with the program.

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ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:45 A.M.

REP. BOB DAVIES, Chairman

CYNDIE LOCKETT, Secretary

BD/CL

EXHIBIT (jgh20aad)